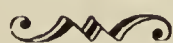


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AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORTS



OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1955



STOURBRIDGE
J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers
1956

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1955.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 11.9 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 10.9 for 1954. The Live Birth Rate was 11.9 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 14.2 for 1954. There were no Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 57 per 1000 live births.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres	-	-	-	665
Number of Persons per acre	-	-	-	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1954)	-	-	-	3020
Number of inhabited houses	-	-	-	974
Average number of persons per house	-	-	-	3.1
Rateable Value	-	-	-	£20,801
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	-	-	-	£82

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

				Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.	
			M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	Total 35 :	15	20	11.9
	Illegitimate	— :	—	—	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total Nil.; Rate per 1000
Total (live and still-births) - - - Nil.

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1955 - - - 15.0

Deaths - 35—Males, 23 ; Females, 12 ;
Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated
resident population - - - 11.9
Adjusted Death Rate per 1000 - - - 10.6
Death Rate, England & Wales, 1955 - - - 11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - - 2

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :
(per 1000 live births) - - - 57

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age : —
England & Wales - - - 24.9 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 10
Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 3.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	-	-	Nil.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	-	-	Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (35).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
2	Nil	Nil	Nil	1	11	21

11 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years,
and 6 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1954		1955	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever -	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	-	-	-	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis -	-	-	-	-
Influenza -	-	-	1	1
Measles -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis -	-	-	-	-
Cancer -	4	1	9	1
Diabetes -	-	-	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	1	1	-	1
Heart Disease -	9	7	4	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	-	-	2	1
Bronchitis -	2	-	1	-
Pneumonia -	1	-	-	-
Other Respiratory Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	1	-	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	1	-	-	-
Appendicitis -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases -	-	-	-	-
Nephritis -	-	-	-	-
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth -	-	-	-	-
Congenital Malformations and Birth Injuries -	1	-	-	1
Suicide -	1	-	-	-
Road Traffic Accidents -	1	-	-	-
Other Violent Causes -	-	-	2	-
All other Causes -	1	1	3	2
TOTALS -	23	10	23	12
	33		35	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.**GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF
THE AREA.**

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist,
Stafford.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report		-	8
	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sputum	8	4	4

The duty of providing the following services has been laid upon
Staffordshire County Council in accordance with the provisions of
the National Health Service Act, 1946, viz :

Health Centres ;
Care of Mothers and Young Children ;
Midwifery ;
Health Visiting ;
Home Nursing ;
Vaccination and Immunisation ;
Ambulance Services ;
Prevention of Illness—care and aftercare ;
Domestic Help.
Blind Persons.

No powers have been delegated to the Council.

HOSPITALS.

GENERAL AND FOR THE TREATMENT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

These are controlled by a Regional Board and are available for the treatment of Patients who have been duly notified.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

(ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

*The particulars will be found in the Report of the
Sanitary Inspector.*

(iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1954.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	- - 6
---	-------

2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	- Nil.
---	--------

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(a) By Owners	- - Nil.
---------------	----------

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
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(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	- - Nil.
---	----------

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	- - Nil.
--	----------

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	- - - Nil.
--	------------

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	- - - Nil.
---	------------

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

- | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|--|---|---|---|------|
| (a) | (1) | Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1954) | - | - | - | Nil. |
| | (2) | Number of families dwelling therein | - | | | Nil. |
| | (3) | Number of persons dwelling therein | - | | | Nil. |
| (b) | | Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year | - | - | - | Nil. |
| (c) | (1) | Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year | - | - | - | Nil. |
| | (2) | Number of persons concerned in such cases | - | | | Nil. |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding | - | - | - | Nil. |

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.**INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

- (a) Milk Supply ;
- (b) Meat and other foods.

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

- (c), (d) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.

- (e) Nutrition : No action has been taken.

- (f) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1955.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.										Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos- pital.	Deaths
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	over 65 yrs.
Enteric Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever ...	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-
Whooping-cough ...	11	1	3	-	-	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ...	53	3	3	4	9	6	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia ...	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals ...	71	4	3	7	9	8	35	-	1	-	1	-	-

5. (a) PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1955.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non- Respiratory		Respira- tory.		Non- Respira- tory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 „	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 „	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 „	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 to 45 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 „	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1955 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	11	9	4	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	2	35	15	3	—	2
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	—	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		46	24	7	—	

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4						4
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	5						5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6						6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7						7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8						8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(a) insufficient	9						9
(b) Unsuitable or defective ..	10	5	5	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11						11
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	12						12
TOTAL		5	5	—	—	—	

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council

Annual Report

OF THE

Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1955.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my report for the year 1955 as follows :—

Sanitary Accommodation

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	961	} 974
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	
Houses provided with separate Water Closets		842	} 974
Houses provided with Water Closets in common		119	
Houses provided with Pan and Earth Closets		13	

The houses that have Pan and Earth Closets are situated in parts of your district where sewer accommodation is neither available nor practicable.

Removal of Household Refuse

961 Houses out of 974 are provided with suitable portable receptacles for the household ashes and refuse. It has not been found necessary to put into operation a scheme for the provision of Dust Bins by the Council. Notices requiring the replacement of worn out receptacles have been complied with and no proceedings have been necessary. Refuse Removal is carried out by direct labour and the collection is bi-weekly. Disposal is by tipping. The tip which is conveniently situated is used for the disposal of builders and contractors rubbish which quickly covers the household refuse. A horse-drawn vehicle is used for the collection and has proved both efficient and economical.

Collection of Salvage. Salvage is not collected. Parcels of paper can be left at the Council Offices or, if the quantity is sufficient, are called for by arrangement with the Chief Sanitary Inspector, Brierley Hill.

Housing

The housing situation presents a difficult problem due to lack of suitable sites. Enquiries are being made with a view to possible development. Four houses only have been erected during the year. They have been built by a commercial undertaking to accommodate key workmen.

Housing Conditions

The houses in your district may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom	-	-	1	} 974
Houses with two Bedrooms	-	-	336	
Houses with three Bedrooms	-	-	552	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms			85	

No houses have been demolished during the year. A survey of the district showed that 68 properties may have to be demolished. The time in which this can be accomplished will depend on the availability of alternative accommodation for the persons displaced. The total number of dwellings provided by the Council is 248. 200 of them are traditional houses and 48 three storey flats. Post-war building has been as follows, viz. :—80 houses and 48 flats. No Repair Notices under the Housing Acts have been issued. 54 Informal and Statutory Notices within the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served in respect of miscellaneous defects at 40 houses. No proceedings at the Magistrates' Court were necessary. Rents of most of the houses, excepting those owned by the Council, are controlled.

Improvement Grants. Two applications were made for Grants, one of which was withdrawn. A sum equal to the product of a rate of 3d. in the £ per annum is available for this purpose. Owners of properties which could be improved do not appear to appreciate the conditions on which grants are made.

Overcrowding. Although a number of houses are occupied by two families, there is little actual overcrowding and practically none if the Statutory Table is applied. As stated under the Heading General Statistics the average number of persons per house is 3.1. A majority of applications for Council Houses are from married sons and daughters residing with their parents who wish to have homes of their own. The number of separate families is estimated to be about 1120 accommodated in 974 houses.

Nomadic Caravan Dwellers

As in the previous year, 1955 has been free from visitors.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No premises have been found to be infested and no complaint of infestation has been received.

Water Supply

All premises, excepting one, obtain a continuous and wholesome supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the mains of the Stourbridge and District Water Board of which Amblecote Council is one of the constituent authorities. It is pumped direct from Bore Holes at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow, both of which are in your district. A further bore hole is situated in an ad-

joining area. Samples of water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are submitted at frequent intervals to Laboratories provided by the County Councils of Staffordshire and Worcestershire. The tests show a certain hardness but otherwise the water is of excellent quality for drinking and domestic purposes.

Milk—Retailers—Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order 1952

Milk is produced at two farms in your area. It is taken for treatment direct to a Dairy in an adjoining district. There is no Dairy in Amblecote. Under the provisions of the above Order all Milk sold by Retail within the Urban District must be "Designated Milk" contained in bottles. Supplementary Licences to Retail Milk in Amblecote have been issued to nine persons whose premises are outside the district and ten Shopkeepers within the district have each received a Retailer's Licence.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations

No Slaughter-house is in use in your district. One, now delapidated, was used regularly up to 1939. There are three retail Butchers. They obtain their meat as follows :—(1) from Dudley (Dudley Co-operative Society) ; (2) from Wolverhampton Abbatoir ; (3) from Kidderminster. In each instance there is 100% inspection by qualified Inspectors. The quality of meat retailed is high. There have been no seizures or surrender of unsound meat. Very few pigs are fed by ordinary householders. No notices to slaughter swine, etc., on private premises were received during 1955.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933. Two persons only are licensed to slaughter or stun animals in a slaughter-house. There is no Knacker Yard in your district.

Food Hygiene and Distribution

Food is sold by retail in the following shops :—

Business premises only—Grocers 5 ; Butchers 1 ; Greengrocer 1. Combined shops and dwelling houses—Grocers and General 9 ; Butchers 2 ; Greengrocers 3 ; Sweets, Tobacco, etc., 3 ; Fried Fish 2 ; Cafe 1.

Worcestershire County Council have a Cooking Centre where meals are prepared and served.

Eight factories have Canteens for their employees.

One "Model" Bakery (Factory) is in operation from which Bread is distributed over a wide area.

No Ice Cream is manufactured in your area. 15 premises are registered for the storage and sale thereof. They are each fitted with a suitable "Conservator." The premises comprise 12 Shops, 1 Cafe, 1 Sports Pavilion and 1 Public House. The Model Bye-Laws of the Ministry of Food for securing the observance of sanitary and cleanly conditions and practices in the handling, wrapping and

delivery of Food sold or intended for sale for human consumption have been adopted. They came into operation on 11th September, 1950. They are generally well observed. Licensed premises, have not, as yet, been dealt with.

One market, a private one, operates for the sale and distribution of agricultural produce. It is also used as an Egg Packing Station. There is no public market nor are there any stalls for street trading.

Unsound Food

No unsound food has been seized or surrendered.

Prevention of Damage by Pests

The following premises have been treated for infestations of Rats and Mice, viz. :—Factories 4, Hospital 1, Dwelling Houses 3. The Factories are, by arrangement, treated quarterly. The work is performed by an "Operator" employed by Brierley Hill Urban District Council. The assistance in this direction of Mr. H. J. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, is appreciated. A charge to cover the cost of treatment is made in respect of premises other than dwelling houses. The Sewers have not been treated as previous tests proved definitely negative.

Smoke and Atmospheric Pollution

Complaints were made of smoke from the chimney stacks and gas producing plant at four factories. One was remedied by changing over to "Town Gas" for core drying at an Iron Foundry. The conditions were bettered at a factory by improved methods of stoking and the provision of smoke doors. Fumes are occasionally discharged from the Gas Producing Plant at a Glass Works especially when cleaning out the flues. It is hoped that means can be found of carrying them clear of nearby houses. The cupola of an Iron Foundry is out-of-date and is to be replaced with a modern one with a "Grit Arrester" and the method of heating the workshops is to be altered to prevent the emission of smoke. It is hoped that these measures will prove effectual.

Pet Animals Act, 1951

No premises are licensed.

Retirement of Sanitary Inspector

As I hope to relinquish my appointment in 1956 this will probably be the last report that I shall make to you. I wish to thank you for the support that you and previous Councils have given to me in the performance of the sometimes difficult duties that have fallen to my lot since 1906.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.

June, 1956.